Dear Conservatory Lab Families,

Welcome to 4th grade! I am so excited to meet all of you and to come together as a learning community when school begins on August 29th. You will love your 4th grade year; it is interesting, energizing, and a very informative time in a young person's life.

Not only will we work as a team to enhance your reading and writing skills, but we will also explore numbers through the study of multiplication, division, fractions, decimals, graphs, and figures. In science and social studies, the units we will learn about are quite fascinating! Among the many ideas we will explore are the great migration, immigration, and the solar system. Of course, the *Learning Through Music* curricular model will be integrated into each unit of study, as well as community building activities to further the social and emotional learning that will be happening each and every day.

This will be my third year teaching at Conservatory Lab and although I have met some of you, I'd love to tell you a little bit about myself. I live in Brookline and in my spare time I love to be outdoors (especially at the beach), visit my family in southern Massachusetts, spend time with my friends, and read, read, READ! I earned my Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education at Boston University and I am currently pursuing my Masters Degree in Special Education at Framingham State College. This will be my second year teaching 4th grade and I am very excited for our journey.

I am sure you have many questions about the 4th grade and the projects, routines, schedules, homework and what to expect in general. If interested, Please do not hesitate to email me with any questions or to simply let me know something about your child and your family.

For now, I hope you have a relaxing summer vacation filled with friends, family, and of course, books! I am thrilled to begin a successful school year together with you all! See you soon!

Sincerely,

Ms. Rachel Cates
4th Grade Teacher
rcates@conservatorylab.org
617-354-8904 ext.311